

it wasn't clear what the meals were going to be. It was a very, very difficult time. But through this very difficult and trying time, this group of people came together on a vision to build a new civilization. So what was it now if we start to add all these things up? What was it that the Pilgrims gave us?

Well, first it was the first of the northern colonies up in Massachusetts. Second of all, they gave us the Mayflower Compact which was America's first constitution and based on the same principles that would later become the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and other State constitutions as well. They did separate their church and civil governments. They never thought that there was any idea of separating God from any government. If you take a look at Bradford's writing—he was the Governor. He is declaring a Christian day of Thanksgiving to give thanks to God and encouraged people in trying to run a Christian civil government.

But he also had Brewster, who ran the church, a different person, and the church had a different function than the civil government. So they separated church and civil governments, never thinking to take God out of any government. They also had a vision for a Christian civilization. And when you take a look at the things they gave us, first of all, the idea of the written constitution, a group of free people under God, covenanting together—that was quite a development. That was the equivalent of Einstein to the science of civil government.

But they also separated church and State. We take that for granted today as well, but when you think about the Muslim countries, they don't tend to separate their civil from their church governments. This was a very important technology for America, to bring a lot of peace and harmony to America by this idea of separating civil and church governments.

Then there was the rejection of socialism. Governor Bradford knew his Bible well enough to know that socialism was in violation of God's law. God's law says, "Thou shalt not steal." It allows for the ownership of private property, and it never gives the government the right to take something that belongs rightfully to one person and redistribute it to someone else. Governor Bradford understood that far better than the pastors of our churches in America do today. They rejected socialism.

And of course they gave us this wonderful tradition of Thanksgiving. You perhaps may be wondering. You're saying, My goodness, Congressman AKIN. You are making a long story of getting around to Thanksgiving. Well, that was a wonderful Thanksgiving, tremendous food, 3 days of celebration and giving thanks to God. Thanksgiving became a very popular holiday among different colonies up and down the seaboard. But the first national day of Thanksgiving

was declared in 1789 by George Washington to thank God for the fact that the new U.S. Constitution had just been ratified.

So the ratification of the Constitution was the event for the first national day of Thanksgiving. And later on, under Abraham Lincoln, he declared in the middle of the Civil War—in 1863, he declared that there should be a yearly national day of Thanksgiving. There was some moving around of when the date would be, and finally was settled in November on the fourth Thursday. So we see that the Pilgrims gave us this beautiful celebration of Thanksgiving. But so, so, so much more, particularly the idea of our Constitution, the separation of civil and church governments, the rejection of socialism, and particularly the vision for civilization, so much different than where they had come from.

Quite a work of accomplishment. Were the Pilgrims proud of what they did? Actually they had a very hard time. The contracts that they were part of—for the next 25 years, they were paying way, way more than what was fair. The merchant loan sharks in London charged them a tremendous amount of money. In fact, they paid 20,000 pounds after having borrowed 1,800. So it was more than a 10 times ratio. Sometimes interest rates at 30 and 40 percent. So they were really taken advantage of.

□ 1930

As they were older and the puritan culture had come in and settled Boston, the seaboard was getting more and more ships coming across, they might have wondered did we really accomplish so much.

But yet, Governor Bradford, looking back, must have seen into the future when he wrote, "Thus out of small beginnings greater things have grown by his hand, who made all things of nothing, and gives being to all things that are, and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light kindled here has shone to many. Yea, in a sense to our whole nation. Let the glorious name of Jehovah have all the praise."

And so it was that though they didn't feel very important, this little, small band of water-tossed saints of God, men, women and children, daring to come across this vast ocean, landing on the stern and rocky shoreline of Massachusetts in wintertime, carving out an existence, barely snatched from starvation by Tisquantum, always looking to God, were able to carve out a civilization which laid the foundations for a Nation yet to come.

And so we have the great adventure story, a great adventure story in terms of the sacrifice and the vision that is involved, and particularly the trajectory of the great ideas that they established, were to be the foundation and the pinning for our Nation.

So as we celebrate Thanksgiving, my American friends, we have a lot to be thankful for, not just for some good

food and turkey, not just to remember the terrible sacrifices of those who have come before, but also to remember how it was that as they used their Bibles, they built a civilization unlike anything the world had ever seen before.

God bless you all. Enjoy a fantastic Thanksgiving.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCGOVERN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ELLSWORTH, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. COSTA, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. LUJÁN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. HEINRICH, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. TEAGUE, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SPRATT, for 5 minutes, today
(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROUN of Georgia) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SCALISE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. CONAWAY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1963. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide assistance to caregivers of veterans, to improve the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2009, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House

Concurrent Resolution 214, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Speaker-Authorized Official Travel during the first quarter, second quarter, and third quarter of 2009 pursuant to Public Law 95-384 are as follows:

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Jean Schmidt	2/16	2/18	Mexico		989.50		(3)				989.50
	2/18	2/19	Nicaragua		357.73		(3)				357.73
	2/19	2/20	Jamaica		775.68		(3)				775.68
Committee total					2,122.91						2,122.91

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR, Oct. 30, 2009.

(AMENDED) REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Sander Levin	4/12	4/17	Colombia		1,534.00		4,292.79		7,027.00		12,853.79
	4/17	4/19	Trinidad and Tobago		1,338.58				4,132.59		5,471.17
	4/19	4/21	Panama		192.00				2,058.21		2,250.21
Hon. Kevin Brady	4/17	4/20	Trinidad and Tobago		2,089.17		1,233.01				3,322.18
Alexander Perkins	4/12	4/17	Colombia		1,534.00		3,399.89				4,933.89
	4/17	4/20	Trinidad and Tobago		2,506.07						2,506.07
Jason Kearns	4/17	4/20	Trinidad and Tobago		2,641.89		1,816.51				4,458.40
Angela Ellard	4/16	4/20	Trinidad and Tobago		2,552.00		1,831.51				4,383.51
Jennifer McCadney	4/19	4/22	Panama		288.00		2,163.70				2,451.70
Committee total					14,675.71		14,737.41		13,271.80		42,630.92

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL, Chairman, Nov. 2, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Collin C. Peterson	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Hon. David Scott	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Hon. Steven King	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Hon. Leonard Boswell	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Maj. Committee Staff—Cheryl E. Slayton	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Maj. Committee Staff—E. Chandler Goule	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Min. Committee Staff—John J. Goldberg	9/19	9/21	Denmark		4,430.00		7,061.00				7,491.00
Hon. Earl Pomeroy	8/27	8/28	Mali		150.00		(3)				150.00
	8/28	8/30	Djibouti		350.00		(3)				350.00
	8/30	8/31	Kabul		76.00		(3)				76.00
	8/31	9/2	Kenya		336.00		(3)				336.00
	9/2	9/3	Morocco		371.88		(3)				371.88
Committee total					4,293.88		79,427.00				53,720.88

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

³ Military air transportation.

⁴ Does not include hotel costs—N/A from State Dept.

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON, Chairman, Nov. 3, 2009.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2009

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Adam Schiff	6/27	6/30	Jordan		1,021.18		(3)		(3)		1,021.18
	6/30	7/1	Algiers		531.00		(3)		(3)		531.00
	7/1	7/3	Tunisia		501.74		(3)		(3)		501.74
Misc. embassy costs							(3)		1,570.44		1,570.44
Local ground transportation							573.18		(3)		573.18
Hon. Steve Israel	6/27	6/30	Jordan		1,021.18		(3)		(3)		1,021.18
	6/30	7/1	Algiers		531.00		(3)		(3)		531.00
	7/1	7/3	Tunisia		501.74		(3)		(3)		501.74
Misc. embassy costs							(3)		1,570.44		1,570.44
Local ground transportation							573.18		(3)		573.18
Hon. John Blazey	6/27	6/30	Jordan		1,021.18		(3)		(3)		1,021.18
	6/30	7/1	Algiers		531.00		(3)		(3)		531.00